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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

23 53 0 US PLEASE CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY UP TO \$300.00 OR CREDIT ANY EXCESS IN THE FEES DUE WITH THIS DOCUMENT TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 04-0100

Docket No.: 2309/0K259

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Norihiro TOKITA; Akira SHIBATA; Masahiko SHIKATANI

Not Yet Assigned Serial No.:

Concurrently herewith Filed:

LIQUID-ABSORBENT SHEET For:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and

that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith an English translation (Abstract only) of the foreign language document identified in Form PTO-1449. It is believed that the applicant in the above-identified patent application has therefore met the "concise explanation" requirement of 35 C.F.R. 1.98.

This submission is being filed concurrently with the application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Serial No. Not Yet Assigned

Docket No. 2309/0K259

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above deposit account for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 8, 2002

Marie L. Collazo

Registration No. 44,085

DARBY & DARBY 805 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022 (212) 527-7700 **FORM PTO-1449**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

SHEET <u>1</u> OF <u>1</u> (REV. 7-80)

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use Several Sheets if Necessary)

DOCKET NO.: APPLICANT:

2309/0K259

Norihiro TOKITA et al.

SERIAL NO:

Not Yet Assigned

FILING DATE:

Concurrently herewith

CONFIRMATION NO:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIALS

DOCUMENT NUMBER

DATE

NAME

CLASS SUBCLASS

FILING DATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER

INITIALS

DOCUMENT

NUMBER_

DATE

COUNTRY

CLASS SUBCLASS

5/18

TRANSLATION

YES NO

1. 7-323498

Dec. 1995 Japan

B32B

(Abstract only)

OTHER REFERENCES (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)

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*EXAMINER:

Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.